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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA, IO/PSC FOR CROWE TREASURY FOR CARLTON GREEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/06/2029
TAGS: KTFN EFIN PREL PTER UNSC EG UK

SUBJECT: EGYPT RESPONDS TO REQUEST FOR FURTHER EVIDENCE

ABOUT HANI AL-SABAI

Classified By: Economic-Political Minister-Counselor Donald A. Blome for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- 11. (S/NF) In an August 2 meeting, Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Assistant Minister and Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism Ashraf Mohsen responded to the requests for more information contained in reftel A by providing forty pages of documents, in Arabic, which he said are the records from Hani al-Sabai's 1999 military court trial. (Documents passed via e-mail to NEA/ELA.) Mohsen said this is the first time the GoE has provided military court records to another government, evidencing how strongly it believes that al-Sabai should not be removed from the UNSCR 1267 Committee list. Mohsen delivered the documents with the understanding that the U.S. will not share them with other countries. Mohsen said the GoE does not object to the U.S. using the information contained in the records in discussions with other U.N. 1267 committee members.
- ¶2. (S/NF) Mohsen added that information responsive to the reftel A points also can be found on the Al Magrezi Center for Historic Studies website (www.almagreeze.com). According to Mohsen, the website contains examples of incitement and recruitment, as well as support for Osama Bib Laden, attacks on U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Hamas military activities.
- 13. (S/NF) Mohsen told us he also recently spoke with a military prosecutor involved in al-Sabai's trial. Reading from notes, Mohsen said the prosecutor told him that al-Sabai was the fifth ranking member of Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ). Mohsen said al-Sabai is a member of the EIJ Shura Council, which Mohsen claimed still exists but is inactive because most members are "dead or in jail." According to Mohsen, al-Sabai is or was Deputy Director of the EIJ Mass Media Committee which formerly published the "Mujahideen Report." Mohsen said EIJ member Ahmed Ibrahim al-Sayed al-Naggar (Mohsen provided no further information about al-Naggar except that he is "probably" currently in an Egyptian prison) testified during the military trial that al-Sabai called him in March 1998 and asked him to join Osama Bin Laden's "global front."